GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3318
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
DELAY IN REFIT PROGRAMMES OF NAVY
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Naval Refit Programmes have been delayed as reported in the Tribune dated February 22, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons attributed thereto;

(c) the details of these programmes and the extent to which they can affect the preparedness of our Naval Forces in the eventuality of a war; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the hurdles in the refitting of above programmes?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): Government has seen the article that appeared in Tribune, Chandigarh on 22.2.2000 captioned `The Naval Refit programmes delayed`. Apparently, the article is based on the review of Naval Dockyard, Mumbai by Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the year ended 31.3.1998.The report inter alia refers to delay in planned refits in many cases, time taken in excess of time planned for various refits, extra expenditure incurred on account of time overruns, creation of infrastructural facilities in the dockyard on adhoc basis etc. Action has been initiated on the report of C&AG in consultation with Naval Hqrs for preparing an Action Taken Note. Notwithstanding the above, Naval Fleet is always put in a state of maximum preparedness to meet any eventualities. Constant monitoring at all levels and mid course corrections are taken so as to ensure minimum force level.